THE SUMTER LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS...

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

OKLAHOMA!

KATIE DAMRON, DIRECTOR
JONI M. BROWN, MUSICAL DIRECTOR
LAURA BALLARD, VOCAL DIRECTOR
MISS LIBBY, CHOREOGRAPHER

AT PATRIOT HALL

IN A LIMITED FOUR-DAY RUN

AUGUST 23, 24, 26, 27

8 PM WED., THURS., & SAT.
3 PM SUNDAY

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 775 - 2150

Rodgers and Hammerstein's

Oklahoma!

Music by Richard Rodgers
Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs

Oklahoma!
Is presented through special arrangement with
R&H Theatricals
New York, NY

Directed by Katie Damron
Vocal Direction by Laura Ballard
Orchestra Conducted by Joni Brown
Choreographed by Miss Libby

Synopsis of Scenes

Indian Territory (Now Oklahoma), just after the turn of the century

Act I
Scene 1: The Front of Laurey's Farmhouse
Scene 2: The Smoke House
Scene 3: A Grove on Laurey's Farm

20-minute intermission

Act II
Scene 1: The Skidmore Ranch
Scene 2: Skidmore's Kitchen Porch
Scene 3: The Back of Laurey's Farmhouse

Orchestra

Flutes	Barbara Rearden
	Diane Garrick
	Juanita Thompson
Oboe	Magda Thomas
Clarinet	Frances Grimm
	Courtney McLeod
	Jeanette Montes
Bass Clarinet	Rebecca Worth
Alto Saxophone	Bob Lee
	Kevin Floyd
Tenor Saxophone	Jackie Hughes
Baritone Saxophone	Chuck Kammermann
Trumpet	Rick Mitchum
	Brett Bishop
	Marcus Davis
Horn	Joyce Maley
	Tim Wilson
Trombone	Ray Graham
Baritone	Arland Compton
	Emily Jones
Tuba	Akeem Jackson
	Willie Session
String Bass	Forrest Ray
Percussion	Jay Shealy
	Grey Shealy
Rehearsal Accompanist	Denise Lynch

Musical Numbers

Act I

Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'	Curly
The Surrey With the Fringe on Top	Curly, Laurey, Aunt Eller
Kansas City	Will, Aunt Eller, & the Boys
Reprise - *The Surrey with the Fringe on Top*	Curly
I Cain't Say No!	Ado Annie
Many a New Day	Laurey & the Girls
It's a Scandal! It's An Outrage!	Ali Hakim, Boys & Girls
People Will Say We're In Love	Curly & Laurey
Pore Jud is Daid	Curly & Jud
Lonely Room	Jud

Act II

The Farmer and the Cowman	Carnes, Aunt Eller, Curly, Will, Ado Annie, Slim, & Ensemble
All Er Nothin'	Ado Annie, Willie, Dancers
Reprise - *People Will Say We're in Love*	Curly & Laurey
Oklahoma	Curly, Laurey, Aunt Eller, Ike, Fred, & Ensemble

Cast of Characters

Aunt Eller	Sue Fienning
Curly	Tripp Ballard
Laurey	Laura Ballard
Ike Skidmore	Rick Rogers
Fred	Ken Thomas
Slim	Ed Duvall
Will Parker	Jeremy Hansard
Jud Fry	Buzz Cornell
Ado Annie Carnes	Kipper Ackerman
Ali Hakim	Cristian Badiu
Gertie Cummins	Josie Holler
Ellen	Jodi Melton
Kate	Heather Herrmann
Vivian	Christy Markel
Virginia	Robyn Turner
Andrew Carnes	Johnny Hilton
Cord Elam	David Hance
Mike	Jim Wade
Joe	Dean Benenhaley

Lead Dancers:
Christy Markel, Lauren Chapura, Margaret Hiton

Ensemble:
Van Baldwin, Ken Ballard, David Brown, Hugh China,
Jayne Dingle, Angela Keller, Betsy Ridgeway, Roseanne Soltau
Kristel Vipperman, Juanita Williams

Production Staff

Stage Manager	Carmela Bryan
Technical Director	Michael Duffy
Lighting & Sound Design	David Shoemaker
Lighting Technician	Ann Beatty
Makeup	Susan Anderson, Lee Ann Lovice
Costume Mistress	Marge Cowles
Properties	Sylvia Pickell
Combat Coach	Cristian Badiu
Poster	Michael Duffy

Costumes:
Sylvia Pickell, Kelly Renko, Susan Anderson, Julia Kyger, Shannon Flaherty, Nancy Reading, Courtney Williams

Set Crew:
Nancy Lee Garner, Ann Beaty, Tom Scheide, Carmela Bryan

Set Construction:
Tom Scheide, David Shoemaker, Nancy Lee Garner, Carmela Bryan, Kellie Murphy, Emery DeSonier, Ericka Fontenot, Shannon Mewborn, Janelle DeLuco, Steve Anderson, Susan Anderson, Elizabeth Pittman

Cast Notes

Kipper Ackerman (Ado Annie Carnes) having been a musical director with SLT with *Forever Plaid* has now bought her ticket out of the orchestra pit. Her three children, Eliza (6), Laura Ruth (3), and Sam (2) and her husband, Curt, have been such a great support during this adventure. She is the choral and drama instructor at Thomas Sumter Academy.

Cristian Badiu (Ali Hakim) returns to the SLT stage after his great success last year in *The Nerd*. He wants to thank the cast and crew for their support and Katie for (re)casting him. Cristian wants to dedicate this show to his wife Nicoleta and to their first baby on the way, due March 23rd! Enjoy the show, y'all!

Ken Ballard (Ensemble) is a member of the SLT youth program and made his debut in last spring's *Aesop's Falables*. Ken's favorite part of being in *Oklahoma!* is staying up WAY past his bedtime.

Laura Ballard (Laurey) began her singing career in her own backyard, umbrella in hand, in her big stage debut: *Singing in the Rain*. She then trained in opera, singing various roles around the southeast, and finished her Doctorate in Vocal Performance in 2000. Currently, she works as the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church and cares for her family - Ken (10), John (8), Maggie (5), and Tripp (30-something) ... and, yes, 2nd Act kissing is real!

Tripp Ballard (Curly) appeared onstage for the first time as Curly with the Spartanburg Repertory Company in *Oklahoma!* Today, he can be heard singing at the Sumter Family YMCA, where he serves as CEO. Tripp's most significant role was at the Brevard Music Center as Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*, opposite Laura Pond as Julie Jordan. Then came love, then came marriage, then came 3 babies in baby carriages!!!

Van Baldwin (Ensemble) is trying the stage for the first time. He finds it more fun than retirement from teaching university and high school chemistry.

Dean Benenhaley (Joe) is appearing on the SLT stage for the first time, but is not a stranger to performing, as he is the bass singer for the popular local southern gospel group "Believers Quartet." He also enjoys umpiring baseball and hunting.

David R. Brown (Ensemble) has been with SLT since he played Perchek in *Fiddler on the Roof* in 1977. His roles include Atticus (*To Kill a Mockingbird*); Norman Thayer (*On Golden Pond*); Fagin (*Oliver*); Boolie (*Driving Miss Daisy*). David directed SLT's second staging of *Crimes of the Heart*.

Lauren Chapura (Lead Dancer) is a senior at Sumter High School and has been dancing for fifteen years at Miss Libby's. She is a member of the Rising Stars competition team. This is Lauren's first production with Sumter Little Theatre and she is excited to be a part of *Oklahoma!*

Hugh China (Ensemble) is appearing in his third show with the SLT. He played in *A Woman Called Truth* and *God's Trombones*. He is a Sargeant with the City Police Department in charge of the mounted patrol. He's enjoying his life as a pseudo-cowboy. Steaks, anyone?

Buzz Cornell (Jud) was last seen on SLT's stage playing a deranged mathematician in "Proof." He seems to have an affinity for playing unbalanced characters. Or maybe he's not playing. Buzz says, "Jud lost his moral center a long time ago, and he eventually had to be eliminated from civilization."

Jayne Dingle (Ensemble) is a sixth grader at Alice Drive Middle School. She enjoys drama very much and has been involved with the SLT since third grade.

Ed Duvall (Slim) is making his theatrical debut. He likes to consider his acting style as "undefined." Ed has lived in Sumter for three years and finally stepped on stage. "Two bits," anyone?

Sue Fienning (Aunt Eller) has been Sr. Robert Anne in all the SLT productions of *Nunsense*. She has four grown sons and two grandchildren and enjoys sudoku, crosswords, reading, bridge, and smocking. She thanks her 1984 Daddy Warbucks for taking her out for vittles all summer so she could get to rehearsals on time.

David Hance (Cord Elam) has sung in numerous church choral programs in Georgia, Florida, Tulsa, Los Angeles and now attends Trinity Methodist church. This is David's first SLT performance. David & his wife Loyda returned to SC 3 years ago. David's busy schedule includes working at Tuomey, supporting his wife in her Real-estate Company, planting trees for his Mother, and if lucky, occasionally working on his cars!

Jeremy Hansard (Will Parker) is appearing in his first SLT production. He is Minister of Music at First Baptist Church and director of the Sumter Singing Christmas Tree. His greatest joy is spending time with his beautiful wife and daughters.

Heather Heusinger Herrmann (Kate) also graced the SLT stage in *A Grand Night for Singing*. Since that show, she and her dog, Scout, have added a cat, Finn, and a husband, Derek, to their family.

Johnny Hilton (Andrew Carnes) is the principal at Millwood Elementary School. He sings in the beach music band "The Footnotes" who are members of the SC Beach Music Hall of Fame. Johnny enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with his family. This is his first performance with the Sumter Little Theatre.

Margaret Hilton (Lead Dancer) is a senior at Sumter High School and considers Miss Libby's her second home. She is a member of the Rising Stars competition team. She has enjoyed working with her dad in her first SLT production.
Josie Holler (Gertie Cummins) is new to the SLT stage, but not to theatre. She is the mother of Stewart (8), Grey (6), and Owings (3) so life is never boring! She is also a part time ordained minister at First Presbyterian Church of Sumter, which is a joy and privilege. Josie and her husband David love cooking ethnic foods, gardening and time with family and friends.

Angela Keller (Ensemble) is co-owner of Memory Lane and is a self-proclaimed Scrapbook Diva. She is actively involved at Swan Lake Presbyterian Church and the Chamber of Commerce. She thanks her parents for their constant faith, love and support.

Ian Lovice (Ensemble) is a student in the SLT school and is the second youngest actor appearing in *Oklahoma!* He has just started middle school at Alice Drive Middle School

Christy Markel (Vivian) has been stationed at Shaw AFB for 3 years and works at the 20th OSS. This is her first musical after a long hiatus from acting, directing, and set construction in High School performances such as *Guys and Dolls*, *Pygmalion*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

Jodi Melton (Ellen), better known as Kelly's wife, is returning to the stage after 8 years. You might remember her stomping on a June Bug in *Smoke on the Mountain*. Jodi is excited about doing the sequel to Oklahoma next year entitled: *Oklahoma II, Jud's Fury.*

Betsy Ridgeway (Ensemble) is making her first SLT appearance, but is an experienced entertainer. She is a member of the Sumter Civic Chorale, Woman's Afternoon Music Club, and president of the Sumter-Shaw Community Concert Association. She enjoys singing, reading, working in her church, and spending time with family.

Rick Rogers (Ike Skidmore) is performing with SLT for the first time. He moved to Sumter from Oxford, Ms. and is originally from Huntsville, Al. Rick looks forward to future performances with SLT!

Roseanne Soltau(Ensemble) has been in several SLT performances and prefers comedies, as comedic roles seem to suit her personality! Her last stage performance was at the Opera House in 2005 as "Dot," a very funny, silly and loveable character. She has 2 great sons and a wonderful supportive husband. Roseanne teaches at Millwood Elementary School.

Ken Thomas (Fred) is pastor of Swan Lake Presbyterian Church, Sumter. He has previously been in SLT's *Pump Boys and Dinettes* and *Smoke on the Mountain*. He has more hobbies and interests than he could fit into six lifetimes, including music (plays flute with the Sumter Community Band, guitar, banjo) and the out-of-doors (backpacking, kayaking, and helping his wife with her never-ending list of home yard projects).

Robyn Turner (Virginia) is stationed at Shaw AFB working at the best fighter squadron in the world; the 77th. She first appeared with SLT in *It's a Grand Night for Singing*. *Oklahoma!* will be Robyn's final production before leaving SC. She wants to thank everyone for all of the wonderful memories.

Kristel Vipperman (Ensemble) is currently an insurance agent for Jim Robertson Insurance Agency. She is also a Theatre major at USC Sumter. She has previously performed in the USC Sumter productions of *Bus Stop* and *Suddenly Last Summer* as well as several productions at Sumter High School.

Jim Wade(Mike) After a 20 year absence, Jim brings his old bones back to the SLT stage. Having performed in everything from comedy to historical drama, musicals are his favorite. He is a retired Art teacher from Dist.#17 and some of his art is currently on display in the Sumter Artist Guild show.

Juanita Ball Williams (Ensemble) is making her SLT debut but can be heard singing in her choir at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church and with the Civic Chorale. A senior at Coker College, Juanita works at DHEC and is the proud mother of two and grandmother of three whose coworkers tell her that "if there is a way to put her foot in her mouth, she'll find it."